AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of forwarding requests for content from a client over a network, comprising:

(a) receiving a request for content over the network and based on a determination of content generation information included within the request, determining if the requested content is dynamic or static;

(b) if the requested content is determined to be dynamic, forwarding the request over the network to a content server that enables access to the dynamic content; and

(c) if the requested content is determined to be static, forwarding the request over the network to a plurality of caches that enable access to the static content, wherein the plurality of caches include at least one hot cache, wherein the plurality of caches is organized in a hierarchy and wherein a higher level cache in the hierarchy is associated with a higher frequency of requests for static content than a lower frequency of requests for static content associated with a lower level cache, and wherein forwarding the request over the network to the plurality of caches that enable access to the static content further comprises recursively forwarding requests, generated from different caches in the hierarchy based on the received request and receipt of one of the recursively forwarded requests at each of the different caches in the hierarchy, through the hierarchy until a frequency of the request for static content exceeds a threshold associated with the hot cache.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hot cache caches static content when a frequency of requests for the static content exceeds the threshold.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising when the static content is unavailable in the hot cache, forwarding the request to another cache in the plurality of caches.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising when the static content is unavailable from any one of the plurality of caches, forwarding the request to the content server that enables access to the static content.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising examining the request for an extension indicating that a process is performed in response to the request, wherein the process includes an application program or a script.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the content includes information associated with a plurality of resource identifiers.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the resource identifiers are uniform resource locators (URLs).

8. (Currently amended) A method for forwarding a request for content from a client over a network, comprising:

(a) determining a frequency of requests summed from requests for all content of a plurality of different static content in a content set, wherein the content set includes the requested content, and wherein a determination of content generation information included within the request determines a static type of the requested content; and

(b) if the frequency of requests for the plurality of different static content in the content set exceeds a threshold, forwarding the request for the static content over the network to a first cache that employs a hot list for access to static content that is separately cached, wherein the static content is obtained when unavailable in the first cache by actions, including:

(i) generating a second request for the static content; and

(ii) forwarding the second request over the network to a second cache determined by hashing an identifier associated with the static content if the frequency of requests for the plurality of different static content in the content set is below the threshold.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein when the frequency of requests for the plurality of different static content in the content set is below the threshold, hashing the identifier associated with the content to obtain a value and forwarding the request over the network to a cache associated with the value.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein when the static content is unavailable from the second cache, a third request for the static content is forwarded over the network to a content server.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the content server forwards the third request over the network to a third cache.

12. (Currently amended) A system for forwarding a request for content from a client over a network, comprising:

(a) a forwarder that receives each request for content in the system and forwards each request over the network to at least one of a content server and one of a plurality of caches including at least a hot cache and a regular cache, wherein the forwarding of each request is based on a determination of content generation information included within each request if the requested content is dynamic or static and a determination of a frequency of each request for a static type of content and a determination [[of]] if a request for the content received at the forwarder is coming from a cache in the plurality of caches to which the forwarder previously forwarded a prior request over the network for the content;

(b) the content server is coupled to the forwarder, wherein the content server sends content over the network to the client in response to each request that is forwarded to the content server; and

(c) the plurality of caches coupled to the forwarder, wherein the hot cache is based at least in part on the request for static content with a higher frequency greater than a lower frequency associated with a lower level cache, and wherein one cache sends static content over the network to the client in response to each request for static content that is forwarded over the network to the plurality of caches.

13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the cache includes an additional cache, and wherein the hot cache, the regular cache, and the additional cache are arranged in a hierarchical order for receiving each forwarded request for content from the forwarder, and

wherein each cache that receives the forwarded request for content that is unavailable, generates an additional request for the content and sends the additional request to the forwarder.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the forwarder is coupled to the content server over a wide area network/local area network.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the forwarder is coupled to the content server over a communications medium.

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the request is associated with information, and wherein the information includes a location at which the request is generated, the frequency of requests for the content, or the nature of the content requested.

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the forwarder is further structured to forward requests over the network to the content server when the information indicates that the request is generated by the regular cache.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the forwarder is further structured to forward requests over the network to the hot cache when the information indicates that the rate of requests exceeds a threshold.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the forwarder is further structured to forward requests over the network to the regular cache when the information indicates that the request is generated by the hot cache.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the hot cache and the regular cache are located on one device.

21. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the server uses a hash table to calculate the number of requests for the content.

22. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the content includes information associated with a plurality of resource identifiers.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the resource identifiers are uniform resource locators (URLs).

24. (Currently amended) A method of forwarding requests for content from a client over a network, comprising:

(a) means for receiving a request for content over the network from a client and determining if the requested content is dynamic or static based on content generation information included within the request;

(b) if the type of the requested content is determined to be dynamic, means for forwarding the request over the network to a content server that enables access to the dynamic content; and

(c) if the type of the requested content is determined to be static, means for forwarding the request over the network to a plurality of caches that enable access to the static content, wherein the plurality of caches is organized in a hierarchy of caches, wherein the plurality of caches includes at least one hot cache that further includes content based at least in part on a higher frequency of request for static content that is greater than a lower frequency associated with a lower level cache in the hierarchy, and wherein forwarding the received request over the network to the plurality of caches comprises forwarding a request, generated by the at least one hot cache, for content associated with a higher frequency of request to a lower level cache in the hierarchy.

25. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium tangibly embodying machine executable instructions stored thereon, configured to be executed by at least one processor, the medium comprising:

(a) a forwarder that receives each request for content and forwards each request over the network to at least one of a content server and a plurality of caches including at least a hot cache, wherein forwarding each request is based on at least one of a determination if the content requested is dynamic or static by the content generation information included within the request and a determination of the frequency of requests for a static type of content and a determination [[of]] if a request for content received at the forwarder is coming from a cache in the plurality of caches to which the forwarder previously forwarded a prior request over the network for the content;

(b) a transceiver that couples the content server to the forwarder, wherein, if a request is determined to be for a dynamic content type, the forwarder forwards the request over the network to the content server, whereby the content server sends content to the client in response to each request that is forwarded to the content server; and

(c) another transceiver that couples the plurality of caches to the forwarder, wherein the hot cache that is based at least in part on the request with a higher frequency greater than a lower frequency associated with a lower level cache, and wherein one cache sends content over the network to the client in response to each request that is forwarded over the network to the plurality of caches based on a determination of the request.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) A method of forwarding requests for content from a client over a network, comprising:

receiving a request for content over the network and determining if the request is for a dynamic or static type of content;

selectively communicating over the network with at least one of a plurality of caches for a static type of content based on a negative determination of the content generation information included within the request, wherein the plurality of caches is organized in a hierarchy of caches that includes at least a hot cache, and wherein selectively communicating comprises sending a first request to one of the plurality of caches and subsequently receiving a second request for the same content from the one of the plurality of caches; and

providing a response over the network to the request for static content based on the negative determination of the request, wherein the hot cache is based at least in part on the request for static content with a higher frequency greater than a lower frequency associated with a lower level cache in the plurality of caches in the hierarchy.

28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 27, further comprising selectively communicating with at least one content server based on an affirmative determination of the request.